

HOUSE No. 1162

By Mr. Jones of North Reading, petition of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., and others relative to the establishment of a pilot program for foreign language instructions in the Commonwealth schools for early education through grade two. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

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|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Bradley H. Jones, Jr. | Donald F. Humason, Jr. |
| Mary S. Rogeness | Daniel K. Webster |
| George N. Peterson, Jr. | Shirley Gomes |
| John A. Lepper | Michael J. Coppola |
| Viriato Manuel deMacedo | Richard J. Ross |
| Elizabeth A. Poirier | |

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO FOREIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTIONS IN EARLY AND ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the
2 contrary, the department of education and the department of early
3 education and care, as established in chapter 205 of the acts of
4 2004, shall create a five year pilot program for foreign language
5 instructions for children ages three through eight.

1 SECTION 2. The commissioner of the department of education,
2 in conjunction with the commissioner of the department of early
3 education and care shall offer a pilot project to five early educa-
4 tion and care public school programs. The project shall be admin-
5 istered by the commissioners of said departments, and shall
6 operate for a period of five school years, commencing with school
7 year 2005-2006.

8 The program shall:

9 (a) Expand existing foreign language instructions in the com-
10 monwealth schools for early education through grade two, and
11 shall establish such programs in schools that do not have foreign
12 language instruction for early education and elementary education
13 aged students.

14 (b) Include alternate programs including programs that build on
15 methods found to be most efficient and promising at teaching for-
16 eign language to children ages three through eight, and if possible,
17 programs involving classroom instruction by teachers certified in
18 foreign language instruction. The program shall identify and
19 develop technology-supported program materials for grades K-2
20 to be implemented in no less than one of the programs.

1 SECTION 3. The department of education, the department of
2 early education and care and the board of higher education shall
3 establish initial and on-going training and professional develop-
4 ment for teachers in early education language instruction. The
5 training shall include, but shall not be limited to, identifying,
6 developing and implementing an assessment of the foreign lan-
7 guage skills of participating students, and developing and imple-
8 menting a program for training school instructors in the most
9 effective ways to teach foreign language to children ages three
10 through eight.

1 SECTION 4. Participation in the pilot project shall be based
2 upon applications submitted to the department of education and
3 the department of early education and care three months after the
4 effective date. All applications shall be evaluated by the commis-
5 sioners of said departments on the basis of the commitment and
6 the capability of the school to provide expanded foreign language
7 instruction, including, but not limited to: provision of weekly for-
8 eign language instruction at minimum levels prescribed by said
9 departments; participation in assessment and data collection
10 efforts measuring and describing student foreign language
11 achievement; and indication of school administration support for
12 project participation.

13 The commissioners of said departments shall, as soon as rea-
14 sonably possible following the effective date of this act, notify
15 school districts of the pilot project established under this section

16 and the eligibility requirements for the project. The commis-
17 sioners shall select schools participating in the pilot project from
18 among applicants without regard to school size or location of the
19 district. The commissioner shall notify the district no later than
20 August 1, 2005.

1 SECTION 5. Each participating school shall provide necessary
2 information and other assistance required by the commissioners to
3 develop and implement elementary foreign language instruction
4 and shall prepare and submit reports required by the commis-
5 sioners to administer, review and evaluate the pilot project.

6 Not later than November 1, 2006, the commissioners shall
7 report to the joint committee on education, arts and humanities
8 and the clerks of the house and the senate on project development
9 and implementation, findings resulting from project review and
10 student achievement, and shall provide recommendations for con-
11 tinuance of the project. The report shall also include a detailed
12 explanation of project expenditures and administration.

1 SECTION 6. The department of education and the department
2 of early education and care shall administer and conduct a study
3 based on the five years of the pilot program. The study shall
4 include, but shall not be limited to: all findings and data analysis
5 based on previous reports submitted to the commissioners by
6 schools participating in the program; reports submitted by the
7 commissioners to the joint committee on education, arts and
8 humanities and the clerks of the house and the senate; data
9 analysis of the cognitive development of students who partici-
10 pated in this program; MCAS score evaluation data of students
11 who participated in this program, compared to students who did
12 not; and recommendations for a foreign language MCAS compo-
13 nent. All findings shall be submitted to the joint committee on
14 education, arts and humanities and the clerks of the house and the
15 senate no later than one school year after the program has been
16 terminated.